

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2 and 16-17 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9 -17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gribbon, U.S. Patent 5,589,142. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Example embodiments relate to equipment for purification of gases which may comprise a combustion chamber and a heat exchanging matrix. The matrix may comprise two portions, for example, a catalytically active zone (10 and 11 in fig. 2) and an intermediate zone (14 in fig. 2), which may be arranged between the heating chamber and the catalytically active zones. In an alternative embodiment (fig. 1), there is no combustion chamber, but a heater (8 in fig. 1) arranged in the middle of the matrix itself.

The examiner has refused to read the "intermediate zone" as being part of the heat exchanging matrix. As a consequence, the Examiner argues that these zones correspond to areas of the combustion chamber in Gribbon. Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly express that the intermediate zones are in fact portions of the matrix itself.

Independent claim 1 has further been amended to more specifically recite that the chamber is separate from the matrix.

With the enclosed amendments, Applicant believes that the distinctions between the pending claims and Gribbon, have been more clearly claimed. For example, the hot portion, e.g. the combustion chamber (7 in fig. 2) or heater (8 in fig. 1), may be spaced apart from the catalytic zone (10, 11) by the intermediate zone (14), which is part of the matrix. This should not be confused with having a catalytically active matrix spaced apart from a hot portion by an empty void or any other object.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 2, 16 and 17 are patentable over Gribbon. In addition, dependent claims 2-3, 6, 7 and 9-15 are also patentable for respectively depending on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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